

Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/TB:FJTATU:MGH

APPROVED BY EA/TB:GBROBERTS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 083522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, SOPN, MILI, TH, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE: U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 8522

1. WE CONCUR IN THE RESPONSE MADE BY THE EMBASSY TO THE WASHINGTON POST'S HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION ON THE REOPENING OF RESIDUAL NEGOTIATIONS BY THE NEW RTG.

2. IN RESPONSE TO A SIMILAR HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION, THE SPOKESMAN HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO SAY: "OBVIOUSLY, THAT IS A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION. A NEW GOVERNMENT HAS YET TO BE FORMED. OUR VIEWS REMAIN AS THEY WERE -- THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE THAI TO DECIDE."

3. THE QUESTION, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET BEEN ASKED, DESPITE LEWIS SIMONS' APRIL 6 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE WHICH YOU
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WILL SEE ON THE WIRELESS FILE. THE ARTICLE IS HEADLINED

"THAILAND MAY ASK U.S. BACK, NEW PRIME MINISTER SAYS",
AND SIMONS APPARENTLY DRAWS ON A PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH
SENI. ACCORDING TO SIMONS, SENI SAID HE "MUST LISTEN TO
THE VIEW OF THE SILENT MAJORITY" AND "LEFT NO DOUBT THAT
HE BELIEVED THE SILENT MAJORITY FAVORS KEEPING A RESIDUAL
U.S. FORCE HERE. . ." KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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